

September 11, 2020

To: Interested media

ICYMI: Here is a rapid-fire update on what happened this week in Turkish economic, trade and business news.

- The World Health Organization [opened a new office in Istanbul](#) that will serve as a key response center to health crises. This is a new operational unit of the WHO European Regional Office's Health Emergencies and Infectious Diseases Division. At the opening ceremony, Turkey's Minister of Health highlighted Turkey's growing role in regional and global health over the past two decades.
- Turkey's Treasury and Finance Minister expects the Turkish economy to [grow significantly over 5% in 2021](#), conditional on a second COVID-19 wave. The Minister expects economic activity to gradually return to its normal course in the coming months.
- The Presidential Digital Transformations Office announced that [SpaceX will launch the fourth Turkish satellite](#) into orbit by the end of the year. The satellite has an expected 30 years life in orbit and will have a coverage area encompassing the Middle East, Europe, North and South Africa.
- The Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO) reported an [improvement in Turkey's export climate](#). The Turkey Manufacturing Export Climate Index, which was at 19.1 in April, reached 52.4 in August. Any index value above 50 indicates an improvement in the export climate.
- Turkey and Azerbaijan are [moving towards the \\$15 billion bilateral trade goal](#) and a free trade agreement between the countries.

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